

MAIL SUPPLEMENT TO THE HONGKONG DAILY PRESS.

HONGKONG, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 27TH, 1889.

THE GOVERNOR ON THE CONDITION AND PROSPECTS OF HONGKONG.

Sir G. WILLIAM DES VRES has addressed to the Secretary of State a despatch of particular length and no little magnificence of language on the condition and prospects of Hongkong, and several events in the colony. His Excellency has now administered the Government for two years, and in his report he gives information and statistics about the progress of the colony during and before that time. The reader is certain a remarkable one, and the colony is indebted to His Excellency for important services to the home Government, the importance of this distant dependency. As His Excellency himself remarked at Wednesday's Council meeting, the report, though mainly intended to make the colony better known and somewhat more justly appreciated by outside readers, may nevertheless, in some particular not be without interest here. Of interest, it undoubtedly is, but it is hardly adapted to do duty for the annual general speech of the Governor, the absence of which this year is to be regretted. The report appears in our columns, and we propose to notice briefly some of the points touched upon which appear to admit of controversy. The increase in the revenue noted in the earlier paragraphs of the report is highly gratifying, but exception may be taken to the view put forward in paragraph 7 as to the lightness of taxation. The rates in the towns of Victoria are fixed at 15 per cent. of the annual taxable value, which His Excellency says compare very favourably with those of the principal towns of England, ranging he understands from 20 to 30 per cent. But taking into consideration the much higher rates on which the rates are levied, it will be found that the tenant has to pay about twice as much as is paid in England. We are speaking now of middle-class European tenements. On the Chinese, who are so economical of house room, the incidence of taxation per capita is no doubt light. In connection with land sales receipts His Excellency briefly discusses the policy of high premiums and small rents or high rents and small premiums. To act on the former, he considers, is unduly to sacrifice the present to the future, and we agree with him. We would advise indeed that the remaining Crown land should be disposed of only on short leases of say fifty or seventy-five years, subject to a revision right on renewal. In paragraph 65 His Excellency speaks of the great increase that has of late taken place in the value of land, giving instances in which it has doubled within three or four years. While admitting that investors are entitled to a fair return for their enterprise, the still displayed in the development of their property, and the risks they necessarily incur, the theory that the community as a whole should profit more directly than it does from the increase in the value of landed estate appears well worthy of consideration.

Under the heading of expenditure, the Governor speaks of the new water-works as being "as yet pecuniarily unremunerative." Does this point to a future increase in the water rates? This is the only means that suggests itself for making the works remunerative. The community, we think, would warmly resent any attempt in this direction, unless under pressure of severe financial straits. As regards the Chinese there is also an equitable consideration for the gambling fund—the income derived from the licensing of gambling houses, while that system was in force—was not set aside to be used for some special purpose for the benefit of the Chinese community. This arrangement is not one that would meet with our support, if it were still open for discussion, but it was definitely settled at the time and it is impossible now to go back to it. The fund of course was very far from paying for the works, but in effect the Government said, "We will take the money which has been set aside for your benefit and as a return will give you a good water supply." This being an increase of the water rates in order to make the works remunerative, should be as justifiable, unless the state of the colony's resources rendered such a course absolutely necessary.

The heading of "Military Expenditure" we must also dissent from. Sir William Des Vres' despatch is opposed to any increase of the military contribution, in which need to say, we agree with him, but he goes further than this and urges that the Imperial Government should pay for whatever further land they require for military purposes and should also be rated. We fail to see by what argument this theory could be supported. The island was acquired by Great Britain, partly as a trading station, but primarily as a military and naval stronghold, and was vested in the Crown. To propose that the Crown, that is the Imperial Government, should bear the inhabitants who have come since the island's annexation for the privilege of being allowed to defend it is a rather cold proposal, to say the least of it. In this there are other matters common sense should be allowed to prevail. It is plain when the Naval or Military authorities act simply as obstructives and prevent the development of the colony by unscrupulously locking up land or opposing the opening of new localities, or the opening of the roads, and so forth, to the public convenience, and how are questions for consideration, but it is the only thing that can be done now short of repossessing the drains, which would be a costly and very unpleasant job. The disaster in the Albany nullah is not likely to be repeated, as the Government will of course take special precautions not to allow the same to happen again. Workmen, we are glad to notice, in progress, too, to confine this impetuosity within bounds and to prevent further encroachment by it on the Garden Road. Mr. Brown says nothing about the restoration of the Kennedy Road bridge, but we believe it is in contemplation to throw a light-iron bridge across from Garden Road, which will be a great advantage to the numerous pedestrians who frequent that favourite walk. Considering the condition and the fact that the Kennedy Road is about to be built, a tasteful and substantial structure should be provided. The work of repair and restoration after the storm has not progressed very rapidly, but it has been sure and thorough, and we hope that before the next rains come the traces of the disaster, so far as the public works are concerned, will be completely eradicated. The scars on the hill sides caused by the great land slips will of course remain for years as evidences of the most notable downpour the colony has ever experienced.

Seeing that the work referred to covers only nine years, and that the trees very from one year old upwards, it is natural that many of them must be still shrubs. The way to test the success of the afforestation work is to compare the appearance of the hill sides now with what it was ten years ago. The Governor, of course, as being a stranger, is unable to do this, but even he might see that the trees have not failed, for they are on the hill sides to prove the contrary. His Excellency in the concluding portion of his report imagines a person who saw the island at the time of its acquisition comparing its present appearance with what it was then. Nothing would strike such an observer more than the change which has been produced by afforestation. It is a matter of almost every day experience that former re-

sidents revisiting the colony are impressed in this way.

Under the head of "Gael" it is satisfactory to note that the number of prisoners during the last few years have declined, due, it is believed, to the severe discipline introduced into the gaol. The Gael, which was so vigorously prosecuted against by the Press, was almost an incentive, and was certainly not a deterrent to crime. Under the heading of "Public Works" an account is given of works recently completed and of those projected. The plan for the junction of the East and West Railways were forwarded to the Secretary of State early in the year, and His Excellency hopes, "that an improvement so obviously needed for the welfare and progress of the colony will not be long delayed." In the concluding portion of the report His Excellency gives a "Review of the leading events and of the condition and prospects of the Colony," in which he dwells with emphasis on the growing prosperity of the place and draws a brilliant picture, but not more brilliant than the circumstances warrant.

The CLERK read the following:

Downing Street, 10th October, 1889.

Sir,—I have received with great regret your telegrams, in which you report the death of Dr. Stewart, and I beg to offer my sincere sympathy to your Excellency.

Dr. Stewart was not personally known to me, I am well aware of the value of his services and of the high opinion in which he was held.

The colony of Hongkong was fortunate in members of its community a public officer who was as anxious to do his duty as any man in the service of his country.

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overnment for some time to come. But while it cannot be denied that all of the many persons concerned will be completely satisfied, nor that a general increase of the works there will be an entire absence of complaints on the score of inaccuracy, I do not permit myself to entertain a doubt that when the whole is completed the undertaking will be almost universally regarded as having been a great and lasting benefit to the community.

31.—(a) "The Building Ordinance, 1889," is an elaborate measure of 83 clauses, intended to meet a want which has been of late years more and more seriously felt, viz.—The means of compelling greater attention to security and sanitary requirements in the construction of buildings.

32.—(c) "The Crown Land and Building Ordinance, 1889," is intended to make better provision for the acquisition of land for public purposes and for the disposal of the same.

33.—(d) "The Award of Compensation, 1889," is for the award of compensation.

One of the principal objects of the measure is to facilitate a contemplated experiment having for its object a permanent improvement in the sanitary condition of the town.

A large portion of the population is densely packed, and the houses are without yards, gardens, or space at the back, and which are rapidly filling up the town.

It is proposed to acquire a portion of the rooms in perpetual and continuing tenancy.

It is proposed to acquire a portion of land covered with houses and to re-sell them (1) either after the re-purchase of the present houses by others, or re-constructed under better sanitary conditions, or (2) with an obligation attached to the new houses for the building of such yards.

Probably the first attempt will be to be adopted at the outset; but if that should prove financially successful there would be comparatively little difficulty in respect of the second and more convenient one.

It is hoped that the cost of reconstruction and the loss of building area from the present "back-yards" will be largely compensated by the demand for the improved houses.

If the event should prove unsatisfactory, the project need not be abandoned, as it is proposed that it would be worth some cost to the public to get rid of grave scandal and a serious danger to the public health by the only method yet suggested which would not cause widespread distrust and discontent among the Chinese population of the future, whether a portion of the town, if any, may be required on re-sale, should not be recovered at a special rate levied on the district provided by a quasi-ponantal rate on houses

provided with back-yards.

33.—(e) The title of "The Protection of Women and Girls Ordinance, 1889" sufficiently expels itself. The system of purchasing or kidnapping girls, often of very young age, for the purpose of prostitution, is one of the most serious evils to be generally prevalent in China, and its suppression in Hongkong is attended with many difficulties. So many are interested in it, and so much of the extraordinary cunning of the Chinese is employed in concealing its operation, that its complete extinction at an early date can scarcely be anticipated.

It is, however, to be hoped that, in respect of which, there will be an obstinate effort to give emphatic support to the protest of the municipal Members of Council.

I refer to the clause which gives legislative sanction to the policy, already adopted by executive order before my arrival in the colony, of terminating the practice of examination of the women in the confinement of public opinion in England, which I cannot concur in.

34.—But while the greater part of the ordinance may be hoped to be productive of unmixed good, there is one special provision which, in my opinion, is of the most important character.

It is the power given to the head of the Executive to make any law which, in his opinion, is necessary to be made in respect of which, therefor, I have set it in an obtrusive position.

35.—The Chinese Ordinance, 1889, is intended to improve the law relating to the Chinese population.

36.—The Chinese Water Works have been adequately managed under the head of entrepreneur.

37.—The principal of the estimated population in the colony, as given in the Colonial Secretary's report, but it may be well to point out that the difference in the date of publication of the census at the time of 1881 (1st April) and that estimated for 1888 (21st June) shows an increase of 34 per cent, in 7 years, so that the ratio of increase to the population in the colony is 4 per cent per annum.

38.—The Chinese Water Works, which are now in the hands of the Chinese, will now require the assistance of the Chinese.

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eral Fernando, Colonel Stover, G.I.E., and General Chamberlain for the realization that we should assist the Government, and that Department, in an exceptional emergency.

17.—Although more or less damage occurred in almost every street and road in the Colony, the chief scenes of disaster were (1) the Albany Nullah, from its commencement downwards, (2) the Queen's Nullah (and its respective tributaries), (3) the Glensley Nullah, which having their origin in the steep slopes above the Tyman Aqueduct, swept down the mountain side, carrying away the masonry of the Aqueduct itself in three places. In the case of the heaviest of these slips, the torrent passed the debris straight through the Public Cemetery, and landed the greater part on Chater Road, the slope of the slope of the hill. I present to the first place to describe these arranged accidents with some amount of detail, and for further particulars, a full description of damage outside the City, and in Kowloon, refer to Mr. Cooper's reports.†

DAMAGES TO THE TITAN SERVICE TANK.

18.—I have already alluded to the very severe damage which occurred on the morning of the 26th May to the service tank and filter beds of the Tyman Water-works, situated at U on plan. On further investigation the cause was obvious. Excavations on a large scale were carried on during the past year in preparing a site for a house on the summit of the ridge above the service tank, and in the course of these operations (see plan No. 7). A large portion of the debris was deposited on a very steep slope immediately below the house. On the morning of the 23rd (I am informed at 11.40 a.m.) a great mass of this spoil bank, amounting at the lowest estimate to 10,000 tons, became detached and precipitated down the ravine. This mass started from an elevation of about 1,400 feet above sea level, and in its fall, as it descended, it carried with it a volume of water varying from 30 to 1,000 feet. Until its course was arrested by the obstruction formed by the service tank which had been constructed across the bed of the valley, a passage of great current water being provided by means of a great culvert or tunnel, carried under the bed of the reservoir or service tank. The distance traversed horizontally by the volume of water was about 1,000 feet, and its height was about 2,200 feet, the fall vertically was about 1,000 feet. It naturally swept everything before it, clearing a passage through pine woods and scrub, from 150 to 200 feet in width, and leaving the hill side, previously covered with luxuriant vegetation, as bare as a ploughed field. Huge boulders were swept down, and in the mountain side, were swept down, and in the mountain side, were swept down, and weighing about 30 tons, which, evidently, blocked the tunnel mouth.†

19.—A short one-third of its downward course, the path of the avalanche crossed the line of the tramway which connects the City with the Peak district. The tramway, including two bridges and other works, was swept clean away for a length of about 100 yards, and the rails and girders were scattered in every direction in a very haphazard manner. The cars could not have completed their last journey for some minutes before the catastrophe occurred. The greater part of the ironwork was subsequently recovered from the debris lodged on the upstream side of the service tank. Photograph No. 1 gives some idea of the course of the avalanche.

20.—At the service tank itself this vast mass of earth and debris was deposited across the valley above the tank to the level of 200 feet above the coping. It would then appear that the rush of water down the nullah burst this temporary obstruction, and caused a great wave to sweep over the service tank and some of the filter beds. To this great and sudden rush of water may be attributed much of the damage sustained by the Bowen and Garden Roads, and the embankment outside the masonry walls on the downstream side of the tank and filter beds.†

21.—The yet heavier rainfall during the night and early morning of the 26th, caused a very heavy rush of water across the service tank and over the wall on the north or down stream side, which had now to serve as a sort of weir, a purpose for which, it is hardly necessary to observe, it was not designed. The flood was brought down with increased momentum, and the debris material. During the 26th and 27th, about 18,000 cubic yards of earth were washed away from the slopes of the service tank and filter beds, and probably an equal quantity from the banks of the nullah below the tank, the bed of which has in consequence been greatly enlarged. The rush of water also carried away the bridge over the stream, and the road to it. During the night of the 26th and 27th, a further slip had occurred in the lower part of the nullah. A mass of earth fell from the cliff at the north-west angle of the Head's Quarter House, on to the open space east of the Officer's quarters at the Murray Barracks (at E on plan). This dammed the valley, the large open masonry conduit 22 feet wide and 12 feet deep was filled up, and the earth, mud and sand, and sand along the Queen's Road, left, flooding the ground floor of the Barrack road, and leaving a solid deposit, consisting chiefly of clear quartz sand, on the roads and barracks yards adjoining, to a depth of from two to four feet. From 15,000 to 20,000 cubic yards of debris were deposited, and a large amount was carried into the Harbour, and formed a great bank at the mouth of the nullah. The effects of the flood in the neighbourhood of the Murray Barracks are shown in photograph No. 3.

DAMAGE IN THE GLENSEY NULLAH.

22.—The water of this nullah discharged into the harbour 300 yards west of the mouth of the Albany Nullah. It is a natural ravine down to the point marked B on plan. From this point the water is carried to the sea through a masonry culvert varying in sections from 12' to 26' square feet. This culvert passes down Wyndham and Pedder's Streets, of which the latter is the steeper. The gradients are very rapid, the fall from the junction of the culvert to the Creek Taxis being 100 feet in a horizontal distance of 1,400 feet, average gradient 1 in 7. The first damage which was experienced during the storm occurred to this culvert. The volume of water on the morning of the 29th being greater than could be discharged through the culvert, the hydraulic pressure blew up the concrete and stone blocks in several places. Large quantities of debris were deposited in Queen's Road and Pedder's Street, and the great flood of several buildings was flooded. But during the greater down-pour, in the early morning of the 30th, some heavy landslips occurred in the culvert. The water, having been diverted by the landslips, was carried through the culvert, and the water level in the culvert was raised. The water then overflowed, and the water swept through the market, destroying the boundary wall. A number of minor casualties from landslips and flooding occurred but none calling for special notice.

TITAN WATER-WORKS (RESERVOIR AND AQUEDUCT).

23.—The nature of the accident to the service tank in the Albany Nullah has already been described. Some 10,000 cubic yards of debris were deposited across the tank bed during the night of the 26th, and the tank was 200 feet deep and 900 feet wide, and 30 feet deep. It had therefore a cross capacity of about 46,000 cubic yards. This solid deposit tended to reduce the pressure on the sides. Immediate steps were taken to further relieve the pressure by lowering the water level in the tank. It is satisfactory to be able to record, after careful examination, that the accident whatever can be detected in the tank structure, was not there any leakage from the tank.

24.—Along the line of the aqueduct which is carried under the surface of the Bowen Road, several landslips took place between the service tank and the mouth of the tunnel, a distance of about three miles. Of these three were of considerable dimensions. They occurred on the steep sides above the level of the aqueduct, where it overhung the Harbour. Mr. E. D. Edwards, of the Engineers, who had made a survey of the aqueduct, said that the landslips carrying away the roadway, and the aqueduct, were of about 120 yards.

25.—The next morning the foundations of the aqueduct remained intact, and consequently the repairs of the aqueduct present no great difficulty, either as regards time or cost, and are in fact now nearly completed.

26.—Mr. Cooper estimates that during the night of the 26th and 27th, a further slip had occurred in the lower part of the nullah. A mass of earth fell from the cliff at the north-west angle of the Head's Quarter House, on to the open space east of the Officer's quarters at the Murray Barracks (at E on plan). This dammed the valley, the large open masonry conduit 22 feet wide and 12 feet deep was filled up, and the earth, mud and sand, and sand along the Queen's Road, left, flooding the ground floor of the Barrack road, and leaving a solid deposit, consisting chiefly of clear quartz sand, on the roads and barracks yards adjoining, to a depth of from two to four feet. From 15,000 to 20,000 cubic yards of debris were deposited, and a large amount was carried into the Harbour, and formed a great bank at the mouth of the nullah. The effects of the flood in the neighbourhood of the Murray Barracks are shown in photograph No. 3.

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INTIMATIONS.

WATSON'S SOAPS.

WATSON'S
PURE CARBOLIC SOAPS,THE BEST IN THE MARKET
FOR MEDICINAL AND TOILET USE!
Guaranteed to be made from absolutely
pure "Phenol," or Carbolic Acid.[THESE SOAPS, being specially prepared
for use in Tropical Climates, will be found
most efficacious for cleansing and purifying the
skin, and for preventing colds, and purifying
all kinds, and most common diseases generally.
They are a mild stimulant, as well as a
restorative and disinfectant; readily kill irrita-
tion of the Skin, and prevent prickly heat,
and other Skin diseases prevalent in hot climates,
and are strongly recommended for general use
by all the leading and most eminent Medical
Practitioners.To be had in the following forms to suit
all requirements:

* SOAP MEDICINAL.

In Single Table Boxes.

WHITE guaranteed to contain 20 per cent of
Pure Carbolic Acid.ROSE COLOUR guaranteed to contain 20 per
cent of Pure Carbolic Acid.TRANSPARENT guaranteed to contain 20 per
cent of Pure Carbolic Acid.

Price 50 Cents per Box—3 Boxes, \$1.25.

Three Tablets in a Box.

ROSE COLOUR guaranteed to contain 10 per
cent of Pure Carbolic Acid.TRANSPARENT guaranteed to contain 10 per
cent of Pure Carbolic Acid.

Price \$1.25 per Box—3 Boxes, \$3.50.

TOILET SOAP.

Three Tablets in a Box.

ROSE COLOUR guaranteed to contain 15 per
cent of Pure Carbolic Acid.TRANSPARENT guaranteed to contain 5 per cent
of Pure Carbolic Acid.

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WATSON'S.

ANTI-SEPTIC DOG SOAP.

In Single Table Boxes.

BRINGS Sudden Death to Fleas and
all "PEDIGREE" PARASITES.It is nevertheless perfectly harmless, and may
be used without fear of
any bad result on Dogs of
any age, or size.

Price 50 Cents per Box—3 Boxes, \$1.25.

WATSON'S.

PURE TRANSPARENT
TOILET SOAP.Have attained a reputation in the Far East
which makes it a universal Toilet
Soap.Guaranteed to be absolutely pure, and may be
used by Ladies and Children with the most
delicate Complexions and sensitive Skins,
without any fear whatever of producing irritation,
at any season of the year. Being practically
dry and firm, they will be found most
economical in use.WATSON'S PURE TRANSPARENT
GLYCERINE SOAP.Guaranteed to contain the largest percentage
of Pure Glycerine it is possible to introduce into
any Soap. Specially recommended to all who
have a very delicate Skin easily affected by wind
and weather.WATSON'S PURE OPAQUE TOILET
SOAP.A varied assortment of favorite kinds; the
principal difference between them being more
of personal preference than of quality; all are
pure, and the base of all is the same, but the
perfumes differ. New kinds will be introduced
from time to time as occasion requires.PLEASE NOTE.—Each Tablet bears our
Name and Trade Mark, without which none
are genuine.Ask for Special Bill giving full particulars
of all the different Soaps made.We also keep in stock a great variety of the
following well-known Soaps—ATKINSON'S, CALVERT'S,
COLGETE'S, LUBIN'S,
PEARS', &c.A. S. WATSON & CO., LTD.
THE HONGKONG DISPENSARY,
ESTABLISHED A.D. 1841.
Hongkong, 4th September, 1889. 13-91

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Communication on Editorial matters should be
addressed "The Editor," and to business "The
Manager," and not to individuals by name.Correspondents are requested to forward their name
and address with communication addressed to the
Editor, not for publication, but as evidence of good
faith.All letters for publication should be written on one
side of the paper only.Advertisements and Subscriptions which are not
ordered for a fixed period will be continued until
countermanded.Orders for extra copies of the *Daily Press* should
be sent before 11 a.m. on the day of publication.

After a time the supply is limited.

TELEPHONE NO. 12.

BIRTHS.

At 23, Broadway, Shanghai, on the 13th November,
the wife of C. H. Hodges, of twin sons.On the 19th instant, at Haddington, the wife of J. H.
STEWART LOCHART, of a son. (By telegram.) 2418

MARRIAGES.

On the 14th November, at H.M.'s London
Cathedral, by the Rev. Mr. J. C. Irwin,
M. G. GUNNAR CONOLY PAKENHAM, son of the
late Col. George Deaf Pakenham (5th Bengal Infan-
try), Cheltenham, England, to Eliza CONOLY
Pakenham, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Pakenham,
At Trinity Cathedral, Shanghai, on the 18th No-
vember, 1889, by the Rev. C. H. Hodges, M.A., W.
WILLIAM WATKINS, of Shrewsbury, formerly of the
late John King's, Esq., of Hackney, London.

DEATH.

At 13, Victoria Place, Eastbourne, on October 18th
last, John WILMOTT, of the Hongkong Dispensary,
aged 36 years. Much esteemed and deeply regret-
ted by all who knew him. Friends will please accept
this intimation. [2433]

The Daily Press.

HONGKONG, NOVEMBER 27, 1889.

At the last meeting of the Legislative
Council two Bills of considerable commercial
importance were introduced. One is "An
Ordinance to amend the Law relating to
Fraudulent Marks on Merchandise," the
other "An Ordinance to amend the Law
relating to the Registration of Trade Marks."

The latter is intended to introduce into this

Colony the protection afforded by the
Imperial Act of 1883. It constitutes the Re-
gistrar of the Supreme Court the Comptroller
of Trade Marks and imposes on him the
duty of registering such marks, subject to
reference to the Supreme Court in cases of
dispute. The registers of old trade marks
kept under former enactments are to be
transferred to the Registry and deemed
part of the same book as the Register of
Trade Marks kept under this Ordinance.Trade marks already registered in the
United Kingdom may be registered here on
application made direct to the Comptroller
or transmitted through His Majesty's Prin-
cipal Secretary of State for the Colonies."New trade mark" is defined to mean
"Any trade mark other than an 'old trade
mark' or 'pre-registered trade mark' the
proprietor whereof or whose agent resides in
the Colony." The conditions for the
registration of new trade marks are similar
to those of the Imperial Act, so that the con-
ditions governing English trade marks and
local trade marks are the same. Provision is

made for opposing registration, and for the
suspension of registration, where each of
several persons claims to be registered as
the proprietor of the same mark, until their
rights have been determined according to
law. Section 36 provides that "A person
shall not be entitled to institute any pro-
ceeding in this Colony to prevent or to re-
cover damages for the infringement of a
trade mark unless, in the case of a trade
mark capable of being registered under this
Ordinance, it has been registered, in pur-
sue of this Ordinance, or of an enactment
repealed by this Ordinance," and it is made an
offense to describe any trade mark as regis-
tered which is not so registered. At the ex-
piration of fourteen years, registration is to
be renewed, otherwise it lapses. Provision
is also made against the unauthorized use
of the Royal Arms. As to the principle of
the Bill there can be no dispute, and the de-
tails being such as have been found to work
well elsewhere, it will probably give rise to
something like uniformity of commercial law
throughout the Empire.

A sequel to the Trade Marks Bill comes
in the Bill relating to fraudulent marks on
merchandise, which is an extension to this
Colony of the principle of the English Mer-
chandise Marks Act. To forge a trade
mark is already an offence. This Bill
goes further and makes it an equal offence to
apply any false description to goods, to sell
goods falsely described or bearing a forged
trade mark, or to be in any way concerned in
the fabrication of forged trade marks. The penalty
to be imposed by the Magistrate on a first con-
viction is imprisonment with or without hard
labour for a term not exceeding four months
or a fine not exceeding \$100; and on a sub-
sequent conviction six months or \$250. The
person accused may elect to be tried by the
Supreme Court, but he if does so runs the
risk of getting two years' imprisonment,
the Supreme Court having larger powers of
punishment than the Police Magistrate. In
all cases falsely marked goods are to be for-
feited. For the purposes of the Ordinance
the expression "trade mark" means "a trade
mark registered in the register of trade
marks kept under the Trade Marks Ordin-
ance, and includes any trade mark which
is registered or used in any British possession
or foreign state to which the provisions of the
Patents, Designs, and Trade Marks Act,
1883, section 103, are, under Order in Council,
for the time being applicable." The ne-
cessity for such a law as that now introduced
has long been evident, for the market has
been flooded with cheap imitations, which
have done immense injury to honest trade.

Section 14 provides that "all goods or
goods bearing any name or trade
mark being or purporting to be the name or
trade mark of any manufacturer, dealer, or
trader in the colony, unless such name or
trade mark is accompanied by a definite in-
dication of the country in which the goods
were made or produced, are hereby pro-
hibited to be imported into the Colony and
brought into the Colony contrary to the pro-
hibition herein contained such goods shall
be forfeited and may be destroyed or other-
wise disposed of as the Superintendent of
Imports and Exports may direct." The
necessity for this provision may not be so
great here as in England, as we have few
local manufacturers to protect against fraud
in this respect. A person buying an article
stamped with the name of a firm in Hong-
kong could not be considered the victim of a
fraud because the article was not made in
Hongkong in the same way as a person in
England buying a knife bearing the Sheffield
stamp upon it would be if the knife had
been made elsewhere than at Sheffield. It
however, we take more than a local view
of the matter the provision is as
necessary here as elsewhere, for unless
the origin of the goods can be clearly speci-
fied imitations of any article that has
made a name will be attempted. In the
other portions of the Bill such imitations
are legislated against, but unless the de-
signation of origin be made compulsory,
imitations not quite so close as before per-
haps, but close enough to mislead in some
cases, would still be made. But the
question arises, how is this section of the
Act to be worked? We have not a Customs
establishment as in England, so we have
to depend on the honesty of the traders
who are disposed to be honest. The
Superintendent of Imports and Exports
will, however, be called to consider it, though
it is not so perfect for purposes of
some check on dishonest trade. The Governor
in his recent report to the Secretary of State
says:—"There are at present strong ob-
jections to any provision for such returns, partly
because they would involve a certain restriction
upon the complete freedom of trade, and
partly on other grounds, arising from our
vicinity to China." His Excellency, we
think, somewhat overrates the weight of the
objection. Now that the Foreign Customs
have taken charge of the stations near the
colony, and returns of the just trade are
kept there, the Imports and Exports Of-
fice might either dispense with returns
from junks or only require duplicates of
those handed in to the Customs. The ob-
jection as regards the Chinese, therefore, has
disappeared. With regard to foreigners, the
majority against the proposed measure at the
meeting called to consider it, though large,
was not overwhelming, and if we doubt from
it those who were influenced by considerations
of the consequences it would have upon
the Chinese; those interested in illicit trade,
such as the importation of goods with
fraudulent descriptions; and those who, although
not directly interested in import or
export trade, had been won over by the
pervasive canvassing of the latter, the majority
would, we suspect, dwindle into a minority.
The Governor replied very much in heart the subject
of immigration—or rather the Chinese immi-
gration to the colony. He said:—"I have
no objection to the Chinese coming over the
water, but I fear they will find that these men will
soon after leave again. Such a state of
affairs would, I fear, be disastrous to the
colony." The Governor replied as follows:—"To
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